Road Safety Forum proposal for "No-Accident Zone"

216. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh to declare certain sections of NH-5 as a "No-Accident Zone";

(b) the details of this proposal for a No-Accident Zone:

(c) the steps Government are taking to initiate discussions to fulfill this public interest initiative; and

(d) the nodal agency designated to finalise these ideas and concepts to save human life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Road Safety Forum has requested to declare a "Hundred Day No Accident Zone" between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Accidents on road are caused by many factors such as "Driver's Fault, pedestrian's fault/fault of passenger, mechanical defect in vehicle, bad roads and other factors like bad weather, catties, fallen trees, road blockage, non-functioning of signals, absence of road reflectors/road signages etc."

The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve safety for road users which are as under:

1. Road safety is the integral part of road design at planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
2. Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

3. Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector

4. Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.

5. Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country.

6. Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

7. Institution on National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

8 Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

9. Provision of cranes and ambulance to various State Government/ NGOs under Naitonal Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

10. Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Four-laning of NH-7

217. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the implementation of the four-laning of NH-7 between Hyderabad and the new international airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that the four-laning of this stretch has been awarded to a different contractor from the original one in December, 2005;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(d) the execution schedule of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The stretch of NH-7 between Hyderabad and the new International Airport (Km 9.4 to 22.3) forms part of ongoing project *i.e.* four laning from km 464 to km 474 of Nagpur-Hyderabad section and km 9.4 to 2.2.3 of Hyderabad-Bangalore section of NH-7 in Andhra Pradesh.